

7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

one of the local directors of the association in our district for years, and he ought to know what he is talking about?—A. Yes, well, I do not see anything very serious about that except his reference to the by-laws.

Q. It is not that it is serious or not, what I say is that that letter is in contradiction to what you are trying to lead us to believe, that your association is not as effective now as it was years ago?—A. I do not know that he conveys that idea. He says, 'Our revised by-laws are being printed,' and in those revised by-laws there are very small changes, which were necessary to meet the altered condition with regard to the officers in one way or the other, they are small changes in the wording.

Q. We do not want to be placed in the position of being accused of not reading the whole of that?—A. I do not understand what his idea was for saying anything of the kind. There was no necessity for it.

By Mr. Herron:

Q. I have here a letter dated Calgary, May 14, 1906, addressed by the secretary of the Alberta Retail Dealers' Association to the Western Retail Lumbermen's Association at Winnipeg, bearing date of Calgary, Alta, May 14, 1906 (reads):—

'At a meeting of the Retail Lumber Dealers' Association held in Calgary on the 8th inst., I was instructed to write your association with a view of arriving at a harmonious understanding on the following points:—

'1. As to the territory in which we shall each operate.

'2. A mutual ground by which we could support each other in our dealings with Mountain and Coast Mills Association.

'3. An agreement by which our members could carry insurance in your Insurance Company.'

The letter is a long one, and I will, therefore, not read the whole of it. There are, however, a few paragraphs more which should go into the record (reads):—

'1. That you recognize our association and its right to the territory of Alberta for its operations.

'2. With regard to our dealings with the Mountain and Coast mills we have also at our last meeting passed a resolution, copy of which we inclose, and which we think you will heartily support. We feel that in this connection we can each give the other considerable support, as it is undoubtedly ground on which our interests are identical. We would ask you, gentlemen, that you give these requests careful consideration and let us have a reply as quickly as possible, that we may be able to present a united front to the Mountain and Coast Mills Association.

'Wishing your association continued prosperity, &c.'

That is evidently when the manufacturers were withdrawing from the Retail Association?—A. That was when they left the association. I don't know what was ever done with that.

Q. How many directors are there in the Western Retail Association?—A. 18 I think.

Q. Are they paid for their services?—A. No.

Q. I mean when they make a trip from one point to another, which they have done?—A. Well, I do not think the directors have made many trips. The secretary made some trips.

Q. I have seen in some instances that the directors were paid?—A. Yes.

Q. They were paid \$5, and then the amount was reduced to \$3?—A. They are paid when they attend meetings, but I don't know that there is any provision for work they do around in the neighbourhood. When attending directors' meetings they are paid their railway fare and \$3 a day.

Q. You informed the committee that this association carries out none of its objects. Would you lead us to believe that you continued this association for ten or twelve years with a president, a secretary to whom you paid \$2,000 a year, and eighteen directors without realizing any of your objects?—A. The eighteen directors have only been appointed for the last two years, I think.